

Application Serial No. 10/542,540
Response to Office Action dated March 30, 2009

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PATENT

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Amendments To The AbstractMarked up Version

The following marked-up version of the amended Abstract is attached hereto to aid the examiner in identifying the changes:

The invention relates to a valve assembly [[(3)]] for an, in essence, elastic mouthpiece [[(1)]] for drinking from a liquid container. The valve assembly comprises a flexible membrane [[(4)]], which has having at least one valve opening [[(5)]], and comprises an, in essence, a rigid membrane supporting element [[(7)]], which has at least one valve opening [[(15)]]. When the valve assembly (3) is closed, the membrane (4) rests upon the membrane supporting element (7), and the valve opening (5) of the membrane (4) is covered in a sealed manner by the membrane supporting element (7), and the valve opening (15) of the membrane supporting element (7) is covered in a sealed manner by the membrane (4). When the valve assembly is closed, the membrane arches inward. When the pressure is applied from the outside onto the mouthpiece (1) for drinking or by applying an underpressure onto the side of the membrane (4) facing away from the membrane supporting element (7), the membrane (4) is located in an unsnapped outwardly arched open position, in which the valve openings (5, 15) of the membrane and of the membrane supporting element (7) are opened. The invention also relates to a mouthpiece [[(1)]] for drinking from a liquid container that is provided with an inventive valve assembly [[(3)]]], which is placed on a cap [[(2)]] with an opening [[(2')]] for the passage of liquid.